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Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The changes to currently amended claims are shown using strikethrough to identify deleted material and underlining to identify added material.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An instrument for forming an immobilized sample on a porous membrane comprising:
a first plate comprising a first connector and a first region provided with a plurality of through-holes; ~~and~~
a second plate comprising a second connector configured for engaging the first connector and a second region provided with a plurality of through-holes; and
~~wherein a porous membrane is interposed between the first region and the second region by engagement of the first connector and the second connector;~~
wherein the second connector comprises a rib-like convexity
circumscribing the second region, and wherein the first connector comprises a concavity configured to engage the convexity.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein each of the through-holes provided in the first region confronts a corresponding through-hole provided in the second region when the first connector is engaged with the second connector.
4. (original) The instrument of Claim 3, wherein each of the through-holes provided in the first region shares an axis with each of the through-holes provided in the second region.
5. (original) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the porous membrane and the through-holes provided in the first region form wells when the first connector is engaged with the second connector.

6. (original) The instrument of Claim 5, wherein the wells corresponding to each of the through-holes provided in the first region are formed so as to be substantially watertight.
7. (original) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein each of the through-holes formed in the first region and each of the through-holes formed in the second region are substantially ovoid in shape.
8. (original) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the through-holes provided in the first region are arranged in a matrix pattern in the first region, and wherein the through-holes provided in the second region are arranged in a matrix pattern in the second region.
- 9-11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The instrument of Claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein the ~~concavities~~ concavity and the ~~convexities~~ convexity have a close fitting tolerance.
13. (original) The instrument of Claim 12, wherein the close fitting tolerance is p6/H7.
14. (currently amended) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising a filter, wherein ~~a~~ the filter is interposed between the first region and the second region by engagement of the first connector and the second connector.
15. (original) The instrument of Claim 14, wherein the filter comprises filter paper.
16. (original) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the immobilized sample comprises an immobilized protein.
- 17-21. (canceled)

22. (new) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the first connector is arranged outside of the first region
23. (new) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the interposed porous membrane comprises a first surface contacting the first region and a second surface contacting the second region.
24. (new) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the concavity is press-fitted onto the convexity.
25. (new) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the second region comprises a flat surface.
26. (new) The instrument of Claim 1, wherein the porous membrane is hydrophobic.